
May In Touch with Grace



Dear family and Friends of Grace,
Spring is here! As we move forward into May, we have much to be grateful for. We have celebrated Easter and the promise of resurrection. Being Easter people means that we see new life arise out of what seems hopeless. We trust God to create a way even when it seems that there is no way. We continue to live with purpose in this place as God leads us to ministries beyond our imagination. With God, all things are possible.

We continue to serve as good stewards to all God has given us – our lives, our homes, our church, our communities and our world. This month, we will confirm three students in their affirmations of baptism. Our choirs will offer a wonderful music worship service. We will reach out to our neighbors with our Spring Rhubarb Festival and in doing so, help our neighbors across the sea. We will congratulate our intern on her graduation from Luther Seminary as she moves onward towards ordained ministry in the ELCA. We press forward in our mission and ministry here in this place with trust and hope.

It is easy to get caught up in the worries of our times but as scripture tells us again and again and again, do not worry about anything, trust God, believe in the promises given, pray without ceasing, and continue to love God and then to

love our neighbors as ourselves. Just as we see seeds, flowers, trees, and life sprouting and bursting into bloom, so, too, our faith and purpose with spring to life. May brings blessings beyond our wildest imaginations. Thanks be to God!

Bountiful blessings be yours this month,

Pastor Karen



Announcements

Thank you to all who presented our Lenten Women Worth Knowing – Linda Sackreiter, Adeline Marquart, Jan Steingas, Phyllis Hunter, and our intern, Becky Sliva. It was so inspiring to hear each message as we learned from each person. Pastor Karen wrote the scripts and Becky wrote her own. It was a joy to see them come to life!

On the first Sunday in May, we will bless and pray for our confirmands as they affirm the promises of baptism made by their parents for themselves. Please come and celebrate with us as we pray for and confirm these young people: Lauren Alleman, Olivia Childs, and Dakota Reed. May God's richest blessings be with you!

Spring Clean-up Day - We will gather on Saturday, May 6th, from 9am - 1 pm at the church to do outdoor clean-up if the weather permits or indoor clean-up if the weather inside is more clean-up friendly. All are welcome to come and help!

New Member Sunday - We will be welcoming new members on Sunday, May 21st. If you or anyone you know would like to become a member, please talk to Pastor Karen.

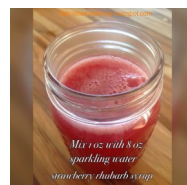
Save the Dates for Scandinavia! Travel with our group to Norway and Sweden July 18-29, 2024. Our brochures will be available soon! Pastor Jan Mehlhoff and I are putting together a fantastic trip to explore the land of the midnight sun. We would love to see you join us on another fun-filled and exciting adventure. See Pastor Karen with questions.

Memorial Day at Union Cemetery - May 29th, 10 a.m. Pastor Karen will lead the Invocation and Benediction and Jan Steingas will be singing. Come out to remember and honor those who have served our country and given their all. The program will feature music, a speaker, and a possible flyover as well as laying a wreath at the veteran's memorial near the eastern end of the cemetery. Take a moment to remember.

Spring Rhubarb Festival – May 20th, 2023

We are having a festival!!! Do you craft, bake, cook, have a body that can help? We are looking for many helpers to create a wonderful outreach experience to our neighbors, friends, east side community, and more. All proceeds will go to help Ukrainian Refugees. Join in the fun! Sign up at church and get involved. We need each and every person to make this a success!

You will see sign up posters in the Good Shepherd Lounge for various options to help. Most of our committees are in charge of one or two areas and will be posting their own sign up sheets. Take a look at what's available and pick your favorite spot. There will be craft and bake sale donations, seed and/or cuttings to donate, you can volunteer to help staff any of the tables, we will be serving some food (walking tacos, chips, etc.) Culver's is bringing custard, there will be games for the kids, a vintage car show, demos, music, projects to help with, etc. It should be great fun!!



From the Intern's Desk -

May Newsletter 2023 Becky's Blurb

Spring is finally upon us. Wait.--Hold that thought. This spring has been undesirable for many, going from snow, to 80°, back to snow, rain, and cool. While we, as Minnesotans, are some 'tough' individuals that can get through some treacherous winters, we also love the season of spring, the renewal, the colors and the smell of the earth. Just like our waiting with joyful hope and anticipation of spring, I think of the promises in the new covenant. We have hope in the good news (gospel) of Christ, the resurrection of our Lord and salvation is for all the nations, for everyone. We may have our ups and downs in this season of life, but we have hope and assurance in our faithful Lord. May you find your blessings today by counting each and everyone of them! A blessing for you as you go: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together with one voice glorify God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



Romans 15:5-6 (ESV)

Eastside Collaborative Upcoming Events:

Spring Rhubarb Festival! May 20th, 1-4 PM Grace Lutheran Church Parking Lot Rhubarb products, Culver's Custard, Bake Sale, Food, Snacks, Drinks, Games, Arts & Crafts, Classic Cars, Plant Sale, Live Music, Demos, Entertainment, & much more! ~All proceeds support Ukrainian Refugees~

Becky's Baccalaureate & Commencement Service May 20th & May 21

Details: <https://www.luthersem.edu/commencement/> *Celebrate w/ the Sliva family!

Outdoor Worship Battle Creek Park July 16th hosted by Grace Lutheran!

Vacation Bible School! July 16-19 Ages 3 - 5th grade can join us at Stellar VBS-A VBS that's "out of this world"! Eastside Collaborative (if you're reading this that means your church is included) is working together to put on a GREAT community event that will launch us on an adventure that's light years of faith-building fun! Host Site: Gustavus Adolphus

VBS Volunteers Requested July 16-19th! Requests include:

Greeters at the doors 30 min. Before & After, Registration Table Helpers, Rotation Leaders (Bible Story, Imagination Station Craft/Science, Video & Games), Morning Care & After Care help (30 min before and 30 min after), Group Co-Leaders to bring groups from location to location, Skits, A/V, Decoration Team to create stage, rooms, etc... **Vacation Bible School Volunteer Training TBD** with light refreshments, building tour, visioning, background check, & details/individualized volunteer schedule. 2 date options TBD

National Night Out/Unite the Night as Eastside Collaborative! 1st week in August at Our Redeemer!

Phalen Lake Outdoor Worship August 20 hosted by Arlington Hills

Blessings, Becky Sliva

MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for May at Grace Lutheran Church is Youth Link. Youth Link works with homeless youth ages 16-24. They are located in downtown Minneapolis but serve the Twin Cities.

On any given night in Minnesota, 4,000 young people will experience homelessness. Thanks to Youth Link and its supporters, new pathways can open up for young people facing barriers and help them build more stable futures.

At Youth Link the mission is to support and empower young people on their journey to self-reliance. Youth Link's vision is a community in which all youth, without regard to their living situation, have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals and dreams, and an equal likelihood of achieving them.

Youth Link has over 40 years of experience connecting young people with a community of resources and support - whether it's basic needs, like a hot shower or a warm meal, assistance with employment or educational goals, accessing mental or physical health resources, or finding supportive housing. Youth Link helps young people at all stages of their journey.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this worthwhile effort to offer assistance and most of - hope - to the young people on the streets of Minnesota. Give them an opportunity to pursue their dreams and provide them with the tools necessary to reach them. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.

Music Notes -

So what about that little organ we have in the Tower room? It was used in our services many years ago. When did that type of organ come about?

That type of organ is called a reed organ, also called a pump organ because to create sound, you need to pump air through its' bellows by pumping your feet, something a pipe organ needed to do with people pumping huge bellows with their arms. They became popular in the late 1800's, found not only in churches but in homes. There is an International reed organ society that gives information on how to keep these organs in service, plus anything you ever wanted to know about them.

In 1935 the Hammond organ company invented a "tonewheel" organ which expanded the organ's capabilities, followed in 1955 by their B-3 model, where tonewheels were created by magnets helping to produce individual sounds on each key. You can recognize this organ by its' use of drawbars, used to adjust the sounds. It became a staple in gospel and early rock and roll classics. Several other organ companies followed Hammond's lead by creating similar organs but using analog recreations, followed by digital versions, i.e. Korg in the 80's and Rodgers in the late 90's.

The Allen Organ company was the first to release in 1939 an electronic organ, using vacuum tubes like the first radios did. There are still some organs for home use called "chord" organs where chords could be created by just pushing buttons located on the left hand side of the keyboard, quite convenient. Hammond came out with their first version in 1959; Gulbranson came out with its' version in 1957 which used not only the vacuum tubes but also transistor circuits, primarily for theater organs. Rodgers (our organ's manufacturer) came out with its' fully transistorized pipe organ in 1962.

Which comes to our type of organ—the digital pipe organ. The first totally digital pipe organ made its' debut in 1971 by the Allen Organ Company, followed in 1987 by the Johannus organ builders and Rodgers in 1990. Ours was created to not only incorporate the digital sounds, but to access a synthesizer to add even more sound possibilities. Rodgers continues to add more digital sounds that can be downloaded, but there are so many varieties of sounds already accessible, some still needing to be tried. In addition, our organ is capable of adding pipes to it in the future, but with the variety that is currently at our disposal, no additional pipes or sounds are needed.

Our organ was installed 21 years ago—amazing. It was recently serviced, with it continuing to be in excellent shape, just a few lightbulbs needing to be replaced. I hope you enjoy its' sounds as much as I enjoy playing it.

XYZ's The May meeting of this group will be on Thursday, May 11. We will be meeting at the Lowell Inn restaurant in Stillwater for lunch at 11:00 am and board the Historic Trolley at 1:00 pm for a 45-60 min. tour of Historic Stillwater. We will order lunch off the menu (most lunches are around \$20/person) and the cost for the trolley ride is \$12.50 for seniors. We have 2 spots left on the Trolley. It holds 38 and we need to let them know a week before the 11th. Come join the fun!!

FROM THE LIBRARY:

SELF HELP books are in Column 1, Shelf 3 –immediate left when facing the library.

A Little Child Shall Lead Them

Johann Christoph Arnold

Awakening Joy

James Baraz

Finding the Right Words

Wilfred Bockelman

Forever

Irma Bombeck

The Gifts of Imperfection

Brené Brown

Our Endangered Values

Jimmy Carter

The Gifts of Caregiving

Connie Goldman

Take Off 10 Years in 10 Weeks

Judith Wills

Living in the Post Mastectomy Body

Beck Zuckweiler, RN

BOOKS FOR DUMMIES

Body Language

Business Etiquette

Etiquette for Dummies

Negotiating

Professional Networking

Piano

Robert's Rules

Success

Grace Book Club -

May 4th:

Beneath a Scarlet Sky

Mark Sullivan

June 1st

Finding Me

Viola Davis



Sunday School Update!

Thank you to our Grace Youth for singing on Palm Sunday. What a joy it was to hear the children sing Hosanna waving their palms again.



The last day of Sunday School will be May 21st. How fast the year has gone by, and how much these kids have learned and grown in their faith this year.

VBS -

We are excited to share that the East Side Collaborative is doing a joint VBS this summer. Mark your calendars, and more details to come soon. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help please let Amanda Christie or Intern Becky Sliva know.

WHO: kids from our ESCo and neighborhoods, ages 3 (potty-trained) through 5th grade

Where/Host: Gustavus Adolphus

When: July 16-19th.

July 16th Evening with Family Meal (potluck) w/ VBS 6-8pm

July 17-19 mornings 9am-12pm

Mark your calendars now! July will be here before you know it!!

Be ready to take off with us to SPACE!



Committee Highlight for May - Property Management

The Building and Property Committee is responsible for the upkeep of our church building and surrounding grounds. Our aim is to provide a safe, healthy, and pleasing place to worship. In addition to the tasks related to the maintenance and upkeep of our 60+ year old church, we contribute to many of the ongoing business operations. As a committee we meet monthly with an agenda to plan and address the Church's building and property current and future needs.

Our ongoing activities include:

Building care and maintenance, including the building's structure and mechanical systems. Maintaining and overseeing the repair and upkeep of the heating, cooling, ventilation, plumbing, electrical/lighting requirements, and the physical appearance and structure of the building.

Grounds maintenance, including snow removal, lawn care, tree care and the overall appearance of our setting.

This committee also works in union with the church's custodial staff.

The committee members are:

Norm Baer, Jim Dike, Monique McClure-Hegge, Brian Jackson, John Luckfield, Norm Walby and Chris Winthesier.

President's Thoughts -

Well...I believe that someday the Spring weather will actually catch up with the calendar. How about you? I am finding that planning for Spring/Summer is difficult when I see snow/hail/sleet in the forecast for the end of April. But if we want anything to happen, we need to plan for it. When there are many things that are still in the unknown realm, planning is difficult.

Grace is in that place in planning for the future. The Synod Fundraising Campaign is ongoing, which puts many of the plans for the LSS Trauma Preschool on hold, which puts most planning for building changes at Grace on hold as well. That should change in the next month or so. The Synod will make a decision regarding going forward with the preschool based on the status of the funding, LSS should then be able to formulate a letter of intent for use of Grace's space and we can then move forward with other decisions important to our congregation. I thank you for your patience as all of this takes place. When we have more definite information you will be included in the loop.

The other big planning item that is slow-moving is the Gold Line Project and our final monetary settlement for the easements and property line changes. The original offer monies are on file with the court and available to us when we petition for it. We are still negotiating a final settlement with them. This also will take some time.

If you have concerns or questions about any of this or anything else around Grace, please contact me or any of the Council members. We are happy to hear any input you may have. Thanks for your patience with us!

Blessings to you, Linda Sackreiter - Congregational President

Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

During the month of May we are continuing to work on the 'Jack Pack' bags. We had a couple of packing events in April so some are ready to pick up and take with you if you would like. There is also a list of suggested items to bring in on the table in the Good Shepherd Lounge and any donations can be left under the table as you bring them in. We will continue to pack more bags and will have them available at the Spring Rhubarb Festival on May 20th to pack or pick up. We would also welcome financial donations as we would like to also offer bus passes and/or coupon books to some fast food places. Thanks for your help with this project started by the youth and resurrected by Norm Baer to help out our Vets as well.

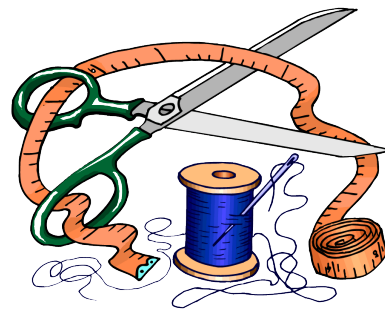
2023 Collections:

Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 and 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz) In January we delivered 36 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul and are already working toward the next delivery. This month we are also giving quilts to our confirmands.

Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Also, Sandy Abernathy will take any American Flags that need to be disposed of properly. These can be left in the collection area in the library. Thank you for all donations!



Quilt Days— May 13 and 27, 10 am, Tower rooms. Come and join our faithful energetic quilters who work every month on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays assembling and tying approximately five quilts each meeting. Crochet thread is now used for tying, but we have a good supply. Come to work, to chat, to laugh, to enjoy being God's hands for the day! Bring a friend. A good time, well spent. New workers are always needed and welcomed! No experience required. We will train!



Miles of Pennies The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward helping the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal is \$250.00 for 2023. Our "noisy offering" totaled \$133 a couple months ago so we are well on our way! Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of pennies and coins are appreciated. *Let's exceed our goal this year!*





We lift our prayers to God in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. This month we especially pray for Carol Anderson, Phyllis Acker, Butch Nelson, the family and friends of Bill Jacobsen (Jan Steingas' father), and those we name in our hearts.

How to donate without an offering plate:

There is always snail mail. The office is open to receive the mail and our bookkeeper will count what comes in each week and deposit it in the bank. Our address: 1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, 55106.

To donate electronically: You can schedule a transfer of funds with your own bank if they have bill pay available and it will come automatically on the date you choose. Otherwise, you can go to our website (www.gracelutheranstpaul.org) and click on the GIVE page.

This site is secure for financial transactions through Vanco which is the Simply Giving program. At the GIVE page you can go through the steps as directed and give whatever amount you wish to several different categories (general, mortgage, etc.) This works best on the Firefox or Edge browsers. This does get to us electronically in a very timely manner. If you are comfortable using the QR, it will take you directly to the GIVE page on the website. **Please call the office if you have any questions.** Thank you.

Give QR



Financial Snapshot for GLC-2023

	<u>March Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$33,373.24	\$72,874.16	\$65,052.78
Expenses	\$30,822.97	\$87,754.52	\$65,052.78
Deficit/Overage	\$ 2,550.27	-\$14,880.36	-\$10,346.56



To Those Born in May!

1	Carol Anderson	17	James Heimkes
	Nicolas Olson		Christian Ray-Taylor
4	Kaity Major Billstein	19	Norm Baer
11	Sarah Pearson		Ryan Westling
	Henry Slotsve	20	Ed Holtan
14	Larry Atneosen		Leona Abresch
	Anna Runquist	22	David Killeen
16	Erik Engh	25	Ron Swenson
	Xenia Rose Stewart	29	Joel Johnson



Worship Leaders for May 2023 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
7	Jeff Oberlander	Alexis Petersen	Linda Baer
14	Pastor Karen	Reed Family	Barb Holtan
21	Becky Sliva, Intern	Childs Family	Patty Young
28	Peter Zitzewitz	Alleman Family	Bob Golder

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
7	Team C - Brian Jackson, Lydia Rose, Jonathan Rose, Violet Rose
14	Team D - Norm Walby, Randy Nikula, Jonathan Williams, Jose Williams
21	Team E - Jeff Oberlander, Dave Oberlander, Anne Oberlander
28	Team F - Peter Hultgren, Linda Denson, Larry Denson

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
7	Kate Pray team
14	Amanda Christie team
21	Monique McClure-Hegge team
28	Kate Pray team



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Pastor:

Rev. Karen Williams

Custodial Staff:

Larry and Linda Denson

Office Staff:

Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:

Russ Carlson—Director of Music
Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Russ Carlson—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

MAY

